

DRAFT MINUTES
THORNBURY TOWNSHIP (CHESTER COUNTY)
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Present: Anne Dzamba, Chris Lang (chair), Molly Morrison, Tom Spackman, Kris Walker, Dick Webster. (Township Manager Brody Bovero and Supervisor Ed Travis)

1. Approval of Minutes

The commission approved the minutes of January 12, 2011, as submitted.

2. Squire Cheyney Farm

a. Update on Orleans and Property Transferal

The Township will acquire when the Board of Supervisors approve the transferal of ownership in the next 30 to 60 days.

b.. McIlhenny and Sheerer Cheyney/Dallett Research Report

Madeleine Sheerer reported on her and John McIlhenny's research on the Cheyney family in the 18th century and submitted a report that she compiled at her expense.

Motion: The Historic Preservation Commission will pay Madeleine Sheerer and John McIlhenny \$180 for printing expenses for their report on the Cheyney/Dallett History .

c. Board Actions re: Security Measures Memo, February 9, 2011

Brody Bovero reported costs for the Township to erect fences around the buildings, secure doors and windows, put up appropriate signs, and install a security alarm for the house, and he and the commission discussed fencing options. Tom Spackman recommended a fire alarm for the barn. The Board of Supervisors will discuss these matters at its next meeting. John McIlhenny suggested meeting with the fire company so it will know the location and nature of the buildings to be able to best fight a fire.

d. Cheyney Farm Park Sketch Plan Improvement

Brody Bovero distributed maps concerning present and projected bicycle and hiking paths in the Township. He also distributed a Sketch Plan for a proposed Squire Cheyney Park. The Commission suggested planning some mown trails, moving the trails more into the interior of the park, and placing the parking spots closer to Cheyney Road for greater security and away from the historical buildings and their setting. It was also noted that placing the pavilion close to the house limits future use of the house. A revised plan will be presented in April or May.

e. Ed Travis Sketch for Cheyney Farm Historic Area

Ed Travis presented his idea for retaining the entire 16 acres for public use. He distributed sketches for use of the area and proposed three primary actions: 1) reduce the barn to a managed ruin with a salt shed inserted at the ground level,

2) restore the house to be used for meetings, events, and historical interpretation,
3) build a green-energy township building with leasable commercial space at a yet-to-be determined location. The commission expressed its concerns about reducing the barn to a ruin and placing a salt shed there, so close to a flood plain. It also urged that a township building should not compromise the integrity and open space of the farm and the house's historic landscape.

3. Oral History Project

Interviewers plan to interview two people (separately) at future interview sessions, using a better camera angle. Pete Galatino will be the next person to be interviewed.

4. Historic Preservation Commission Articles for *The Gander*

Anne Dzamba will write an article, due March 1, on the Westtown Station for the next issue of *The Gander*. Green Shadows, the Galatino property, will be the next property to be featured.

5. Barn Survey and 1709 Barn Inspection

The proposed survey of barns in the Township will be conducted when the weather improves. Chris Lang applauded the Huber report on the Cheyney Barn, which was distributed to commission members.

6. Historic Preservation Record Keeping

The commission has been given Westtown Post Office records from the early 20th century. The commission discussed what to do with them, and will seek advice from the Chester County Archives.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at 7:30 P.M.

Richard J. Webster
Commission Secretary